

PRESS RELEASE

March 5, 2019

For Immediate Release:

San Anselmo Launches Design Competition to Reimagine Downtown Park

San Anselmo, CA –The Creek Park Community Advisory Committee (CAC), in partnership with the Town of San Anselmo, today released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) seeking to engage qualified design professionals in the process to bring a revitalized Creek Park to life through a design competition. The reimagined park will highlight the San Anselmo Creek for visitors to downtown San Anselmo, making the integration of public waterfront access and recreation an important feature of the downtown area.

The RFQ can be found in the Competition section of the project website.

<http://reimaginecreekpark.com/competition/>

Qualifications are due on Friday, March 15 at 5:00 pm.

In concert with a significant flood mitigation construction project, San Anselmo has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform its downtown into a truly vibrant environmental and recreational civic space and regional destination unlike, any other place in Marin.

Brian Colbert, San Anselmo Town Councilmember who is driving the team and momentum behind the project said, “Creek Park is already a venue for summer events like 'Movies in the Park' and 'Concerts in the Park' but it can be so much more. This project is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to look at the heart of our downtown and make sure the space serves the community as best as it can, *all year round*, including increasing the economic vitality of our historic downtown. Brian would like to thank and acknowledge the members of the CAC for the dedication and energy they are bringing to this innovative project

As a former member of the San Anselmo Arts Commission and a local parent, I have spent much time in the Park. While I have always enjoyed being there, through the years, I have considered what the Town could do to improve the Creek Park experience—make the Creek accessible, open up the grassy space so that more community members could attend its events and integrate the local businesses with the Park. We now have that opportunity to make improvements. These are exciting times for the Town and the Park. - Katie Rice Jones

“We are so fortunate to have world class landscape architects with offices both in San Anselmo and neighboring cities in the SF Bay Area,” noted Kelley Warner a member of the CAC, “We are really hoping to engage them to throw their hats in the ring for this exciting and transformative project.”

Background: Creek Park is located on the southwest corner of the Hub intersection where Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Redhill Avenue, and Center Boulevard converge in San Anselmo. The Park was developed in the early 1970’s alongside San Anselmo Creek. It was designed as a passive green space with only token connections to the creek.

Downtown San Anselmo is prone to flooding and has experienced several historic floods, most recently in 1982 and 2005. Marin County Flood Control District has had a continual remediation program focusing on flood control in sections of the creek in San Anselmo. This past Fall, the County’s Board of Supervisors approved the San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project (SAFRR). The SAFRR concludes more than two years of flood mitigation efforts to protect and prevent flooding in the Ross Valley.

The SAFRR proposes removal of one building housing four businesses that intrude on the Creek and create a water flow barrier. Demolition of approximately 150 feet of structures along San Anselmo Avenue (address numbers 632, 634, and 636 as indicated in the SAFRR plans) will add open space along San Anselmo Avenue which will be included in the reimagine project; adding views, access to the Creek and is the impetus for the competition.

About the Competition: A screening subcommittee of the Creek Park Advisory Committee (CAC) will review submissions of qualifications and select three entrants who will be invited to prepare concept design submittals for Reimagining Creek Park into Creekside Commons, and personally present their solutions to the San Anselmo Town Council. The Town Council will evaluate the concept approaches and select the winning submittal. Once a design professional is selected, the individual or firm will be invited to enter into contract with the Town of San Anselmo for the design of the Creekside Commons project. Completion of the project is anticipated by the end of 2020.

Community outreach and surveys of the residents and business community have generated several goals for the reimaging program.

Highlights include:

- Creating a community common space that is a memorable, signature civic place for the Town of San Anselmo and a gathering space for users and visitors.
- Visually and physically open the park site to both the Hub and the downtown area and provide connection between the east and west sides of the Creek.
- Use the local topography in an engaging and imaginative way.
- Integration of park design with SAFRR to reduce flood risk of the San Anselmo Creek.

- Create an enduring design that will age well over time and have a variety of uses and activities for all age groups.
- Include ideas for evening visibility, safety during high flood flow events, ADA compliance, and sustainability best practices.
- Consider how the new Commons could promote shopping, dining, entertainment, and leisure experiences in downtown San Anselmo morning to evening in any season.

Find us on www.facebook.com/reimaginecreekpark or follow us on [@reimaginecreekpark](https://twitter.com/reimaginecreekpark) or visit www.reimaginecreekpark.com to learn more about the Reimagine Creek Park Project.